



Vermont Freight Forum 2

Supporting the Vermont Freight Plan Update
- August 11, 2021

Vermont Freight Forum 2 Agenda

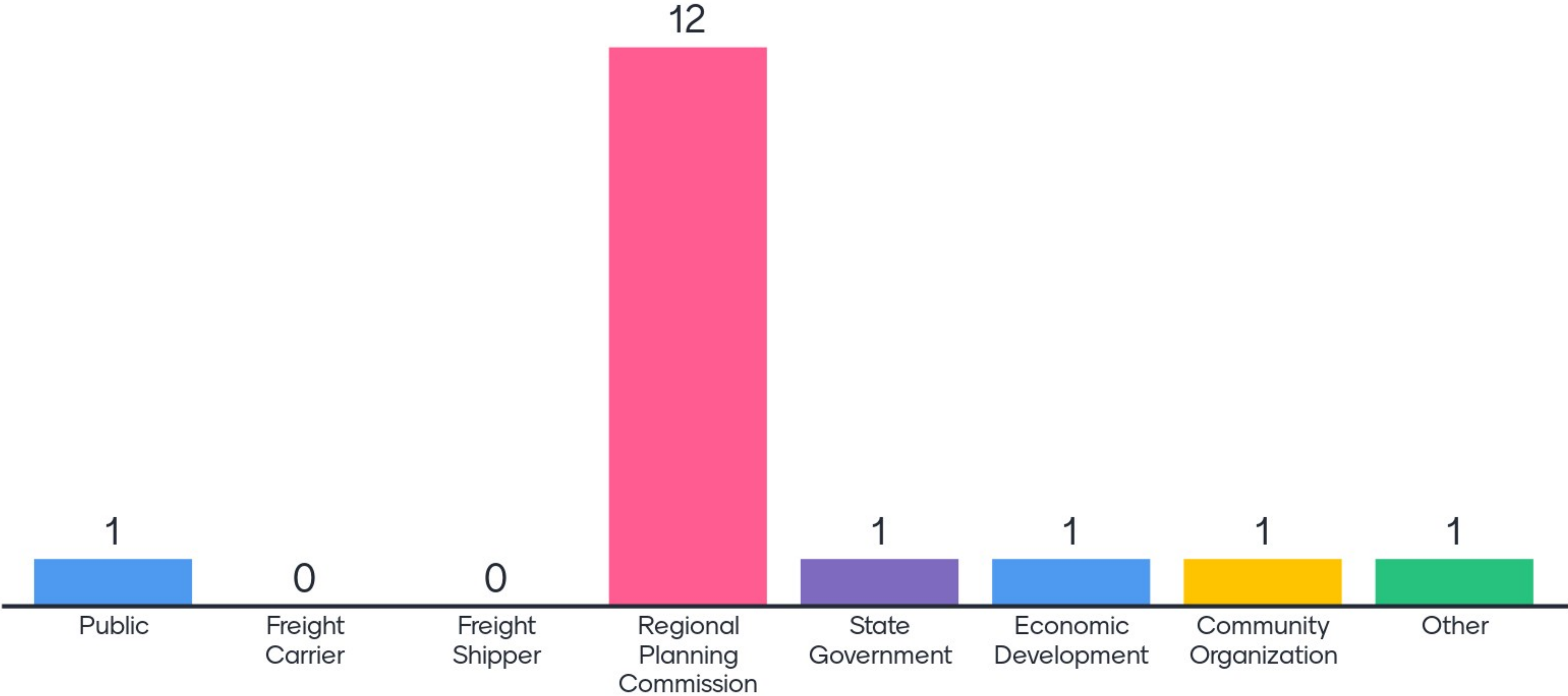


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We will be using interactive polling during this meeting.

You can use a smartphone, tablet, or a separate browser tab to view and respond to the questions.

What is your affiliation?



First Vermont Freight Forum Re-Cap



What is Freight?



Freight transportation is the movement of goods, for example:

Raw materials moved to
manufacturing facilities

Manufactured products
moved to warehouses
and retailers

Agricultural products
delivered to farm stands,
retail stores, food
product manufacturers,
and institutions

E-commerce orders
delivered to your door

Medical supplies
delivered to hospitals

Home heating oil
delivered

Construction materials
delivered to job sites

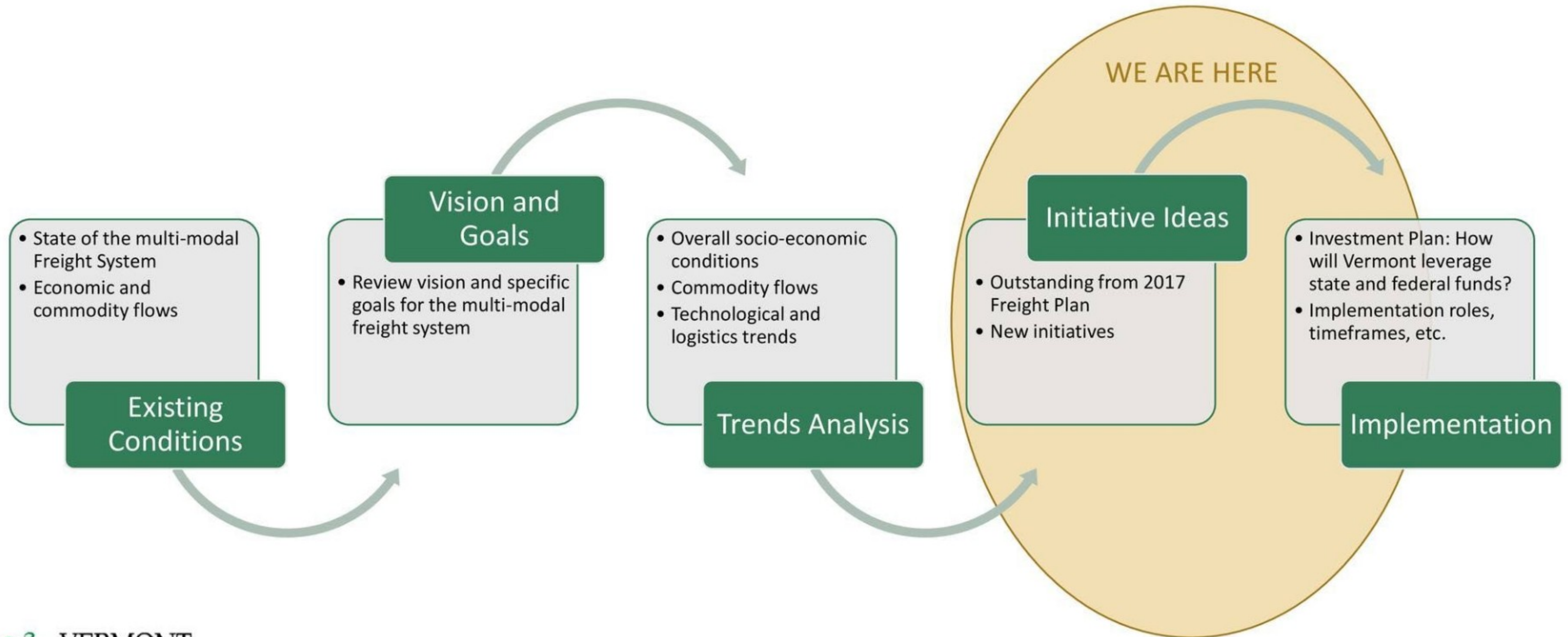
Waste picked up and
moved to recycling or
disposal facilities

Vermont Freight Plan Background



- Good planning and follow-through makes for an efficient freight system for Vermont
- FHWA requires a State Freight Plan every five years in order to obligate Freight Formula funds
- State Freight Plans must include:
 - Freight trends, needs, and issues
 - Freight policies, strategies and performance measures
 - How innovative technologies are being considered
 - Congestion, delay, mobility, and deterioration issues (if applicable);
 - Freight Investment Plan;
 - Engage stakeholders and Freight Plan Advisory Committee

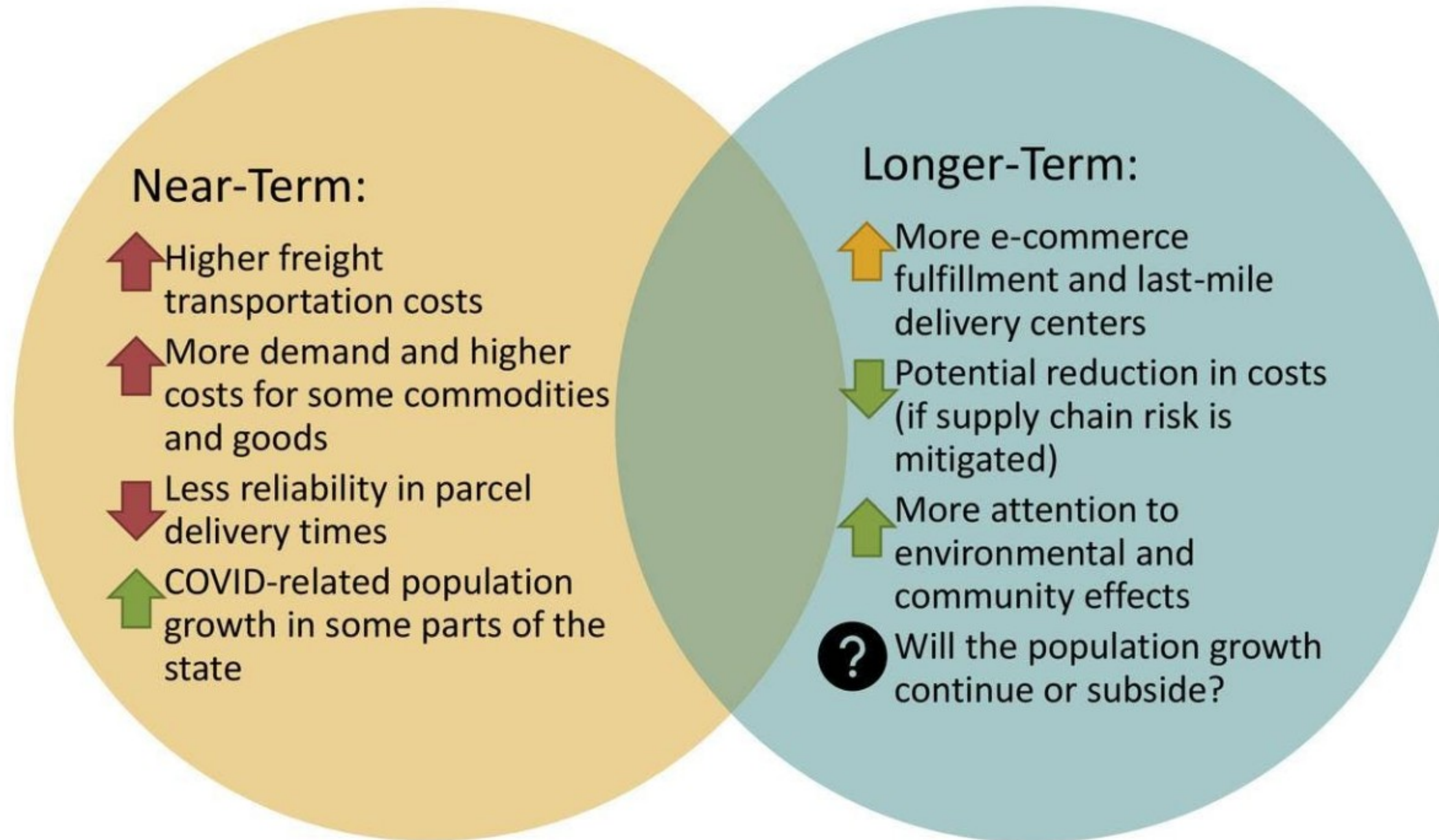
Freight Plan Elements



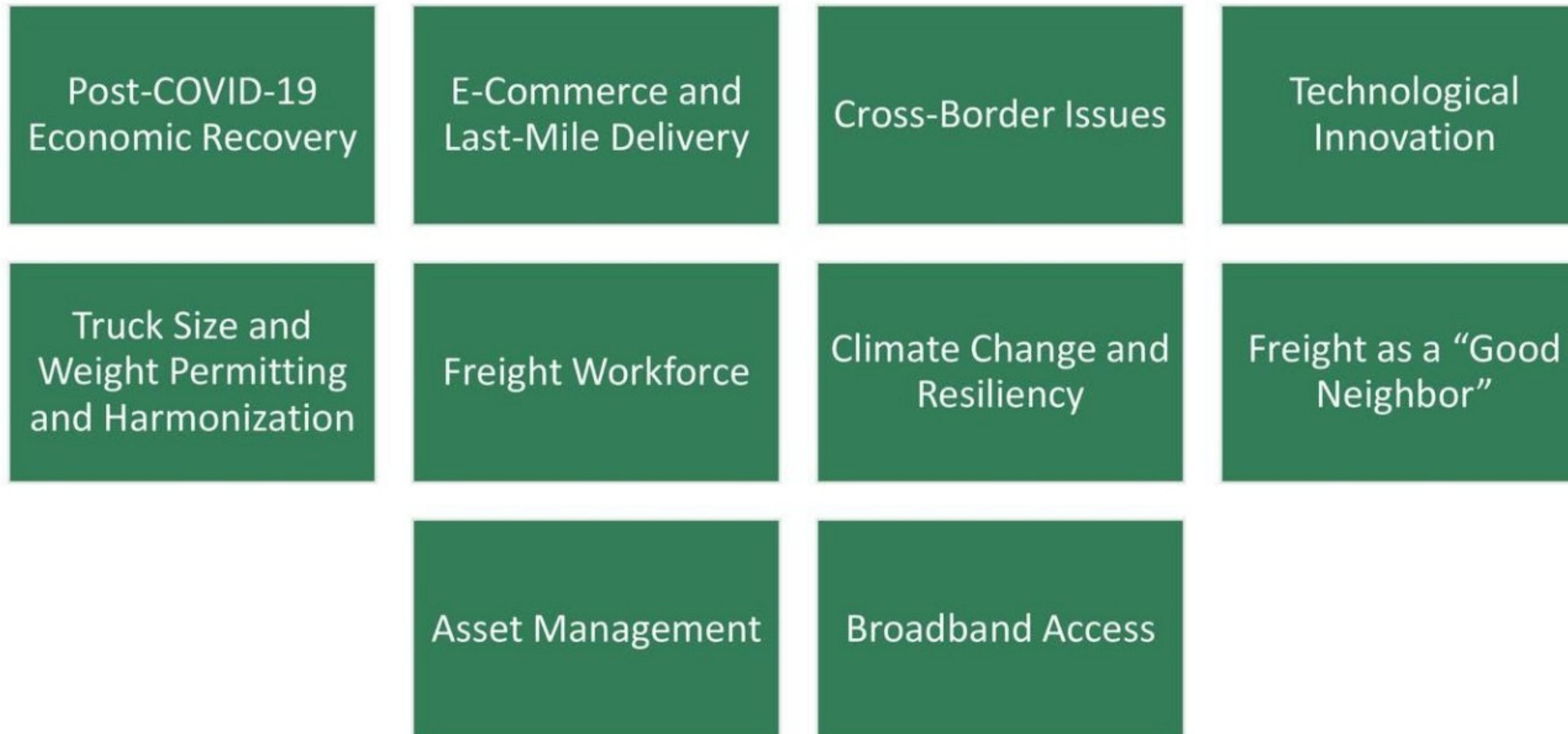
Freight Needs Assessment Review



What will the Ongoing COVID-19 Recovery Look Like?



Key & Emerging Trends and Issues

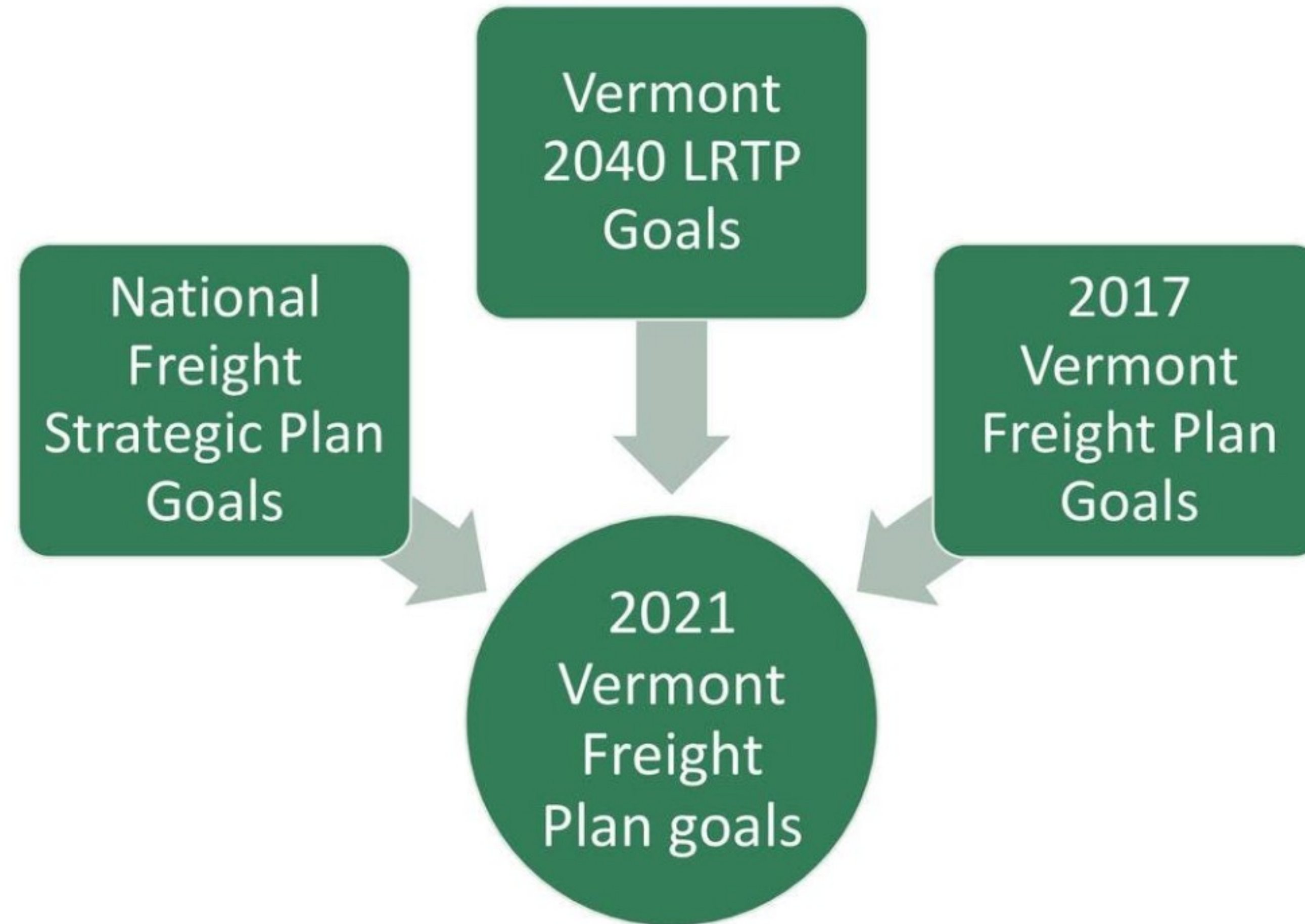


Needs Assessment



	Issue	Need
Performance Measures	System Performance	Help shippers find freight solutions
	Infrastructure Performance	Continue funding State of Good Repair projects
	Travel Time, Border Delays	Manage weather response and Support US and Canadian efforts to improve border operations
	Safety (HAZMAT & Truck-Involved Crashes)	Advance safety improvements, particularly on state highways with truck-involved or HAZMAT crashes
Emerging Trends and Issues	Technological Innovation	Anticipate the development and deployment of technological innovations, & partner with innovators
	Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery	Monitor trends and develop more advanced modeling and forecasting capabilities in order to anticipate the potential effects of various future scenarios on freight demand in the state
	E-Commerce and Last-Mile Delivery	Acquire data and estimate the potential effects of deliveries on highways, emissions, and the economy
	Cross-Border Issues	Continue coordinating activities among stakeholders, and undertake mitigating actions, if/as needed
	Truck Size and Weight Permitting and Harmonization	Consider talks with New York to join NETC or otherwise streamline permitting for trips between VT and NY
	Freight Workforce	Support the development of workforce capabilities that improve freight system performance
	Climate Change and Resiliency	Support initiatives to reduce GHG emissions, and identify/harden vulnerable freight infrastructure
	Freight as a “Good Neighbor”	Coordinate stakeholder discussions around “good neighbor” strategies and practices
	Asset Management	Continue VAMIS implementation
	Broadband Access	Expand the reach of broadband internet access statewide

Vermont Freight Plan Goals



Vermont Freight Plan Goals



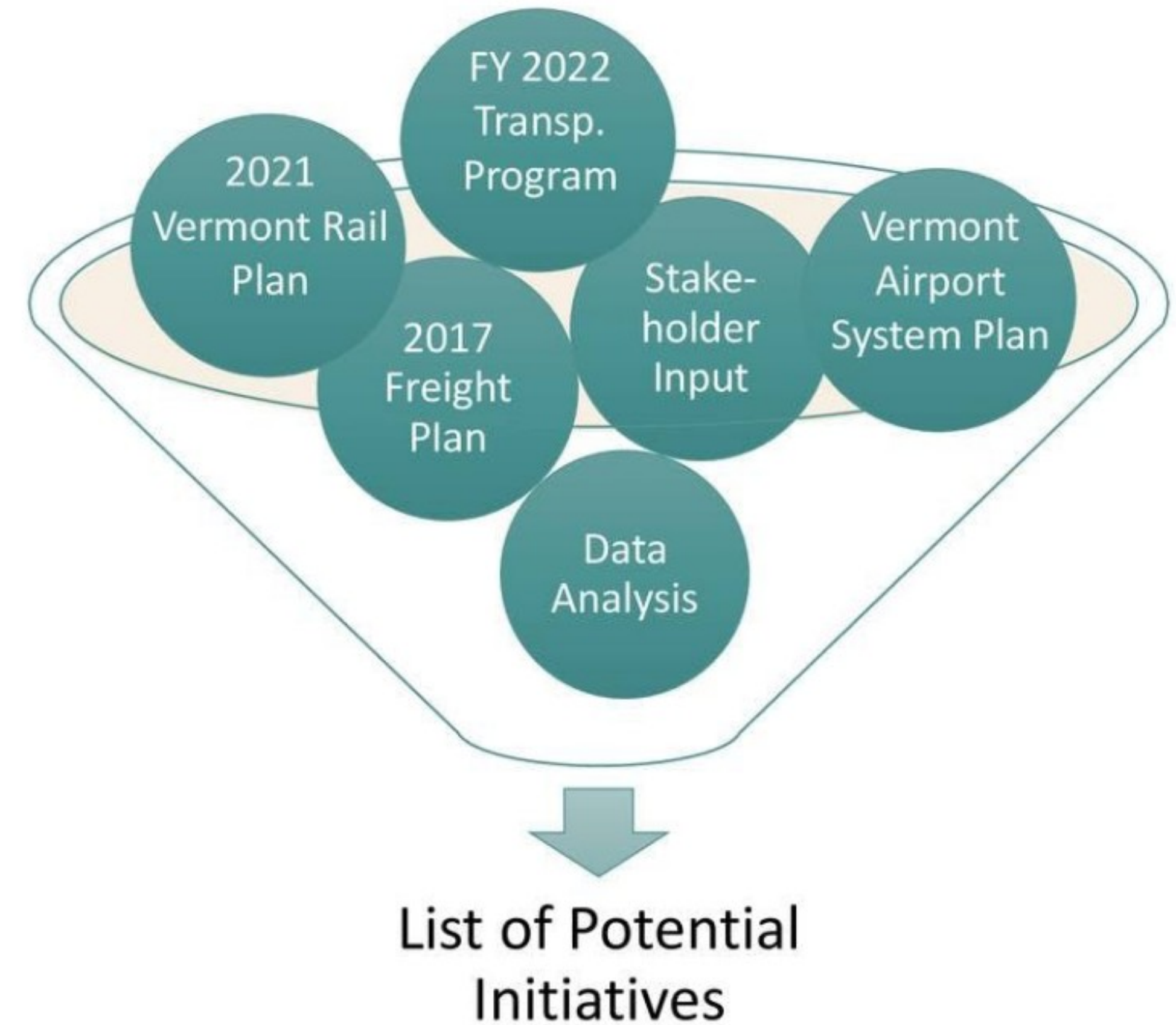
1. **Improve the safety, security, and resilience** of the freight system;
2. **Modernize freight infrastructure and operations** to grow the economy, increase competitiveness, and improve quality of life;
3. Prepare for the future by **supporting the development of data, technologies, and workforce capabilities** that improve freight system performance.
4. **Ensure reliable truck travel times** between Vermont and its major regional markets such as Boston, New York City, Albany, and Montreal;
5. Keep highway, rail, aviation, and water transportation infrastructure in a **state of good repair**; and
6. **Increase freight rail usage** by expanding capacity, improving intermodal connectivity, and acting on opportunities for ancillary economic development

Potential Initiatives



Potential Initiatives

- Assemble a list of initiatives that could address the needs
- List includes 37 initiatives in 7 packages
 - (note: some initiatives list capital projects that support the initiative)



Packages of Initiatives



Freight Planning and Policy

- Integrate freight with other activities
- Gather information and monitor trends

Climate Change and Resiliency

- Expanding alternative fuel infrastructure for freight
- Adapting to climate change impacts

Technological Innovation

- Expanding information and ITS deployment
- Supporting innovation in Vermont

Trade Corridors and Economic Development

- Streamlining cross-border and inter-state trade

Highway Operations

- Maintaining and improving highways (safety, resilience)

Rail Development

- Maintaining and upgrading rail infrastructure
- Multi-state rail planning

Air Freight

- Maintaining infrastructure
- Upgrading (if/when necessary)

Freight Planning and Policy

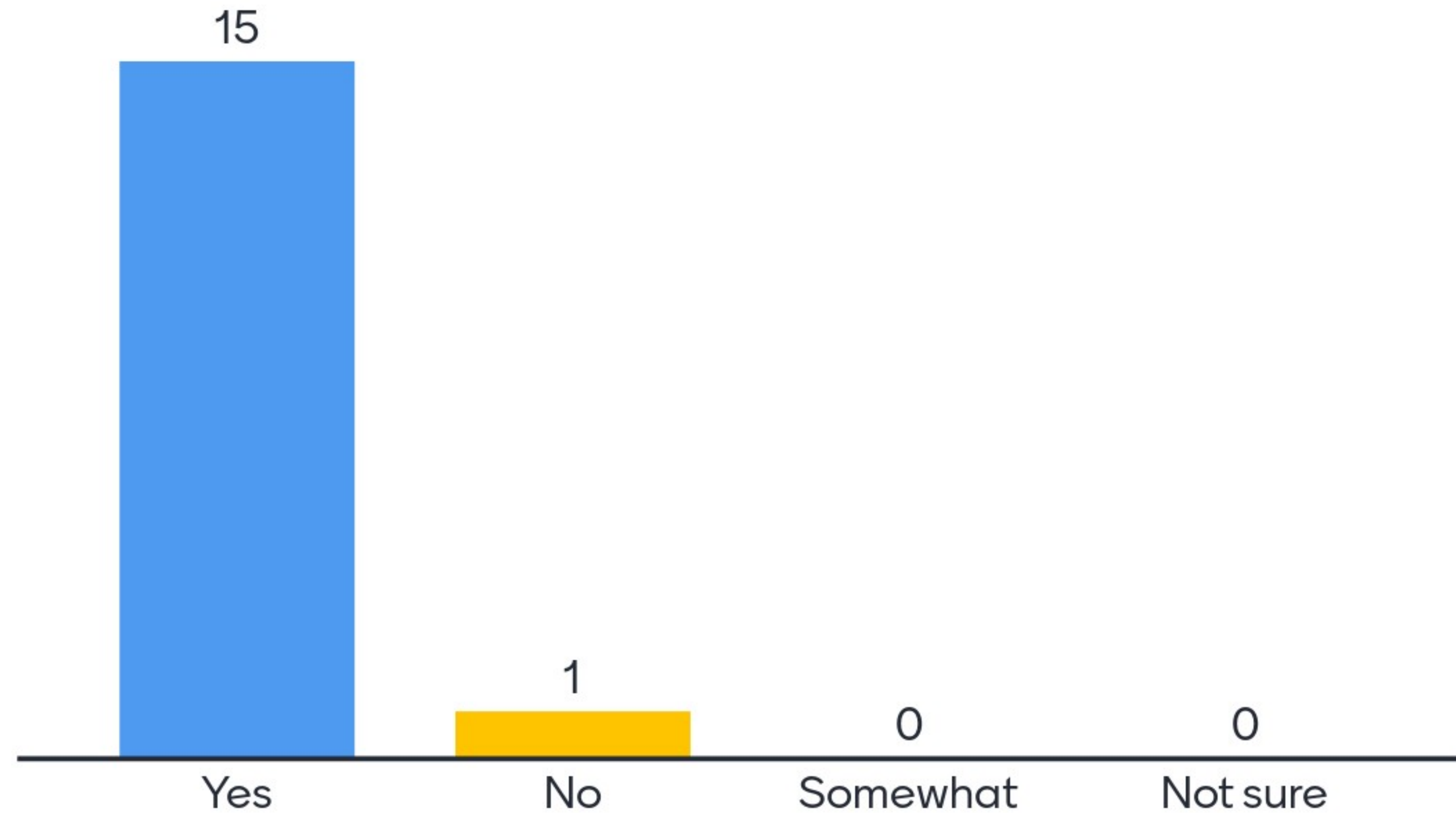
Objectives:

- Integrate freight with other activities
- Gather information and monitor trends

Initiatives:

3. Ensure that freight impacts are considered in VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization Process (VPSP2).
4. Engage in equity and "good neighbor" elements of freight planning.
50. Identify up to two freight performance measures per mode to incorporate into VTrans dashboards.
11. Monitor the evolving freight rail corporate landscape and weigh in on industry activities.
51. Study the effects of inclement weather and poor road conditions on freight movement.
52. Determine potential traffic impacts of programmed construction projects on the movement of oversize shipments.
8. Improve data and analysis tools to quantify impacts of trends (i.e., COVID-19, e-commerce, etc.).

Do these thematic packages capture the issues that matter most to you?



Breakout Discussion



Breakout Discussion



- We will divide participants into smaller “discussion groups”
- Each discussion group will review 1-2 packages of initiatives
- Key discussion questions for each group/package:
 - Do the initiatives address Vermont’s freight needs?
 - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
 - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont’s highest priority?
 - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?

Breakout Groups: Packages to Review/Discuss



Breakout Group 1

Freight Planning and Policy

- Integrate freight with other activities
- Gather information and monitor trends

Breakout Group 2

Climate Change and Resiliency

- Expanding alternative fuel infrastructure for freight
- Adapting to climate change impacts

Technological Innovation

- Expanding information and ITS deployment
- Supporting innovation in Vermont

Breakout Group 3

Trade Corridors and Economic Development

- Streamlining cross-border and inter-state trade

Highway Operations

- Maintaining and improving highways (safety, resilience)

Breakout Group 4

Rail Development

- Maintaining and upgrading rail infrastructure
- Multi-state rail planning

Air Freight

- Maintaining infrastructure
- Upgrading (if/when necessary)

Breakout Group 1



- Freight Planning and Policy Package

Freight Planning and Policy

Objectives:

- Integrate freight with other activities
- Gather information and monitor trends

Initiatives:

3. Ensure that freight impacts are considered in VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization Process (VPSP2).
4. Engage in equity and "good neighbor" elements of freight planning.
50. Identify up to two freight performance measures per mode to incorporate into VTrans dashboards.
11. Monitor the evolving freight rail corporate landscape and weigh in on industry activities.
51. Study the effects of inclement weather and poor road conditions on freight movement.
52. Determine potential traffic impacts of programmed construction projects on the movement of oversize shipments.
8. Improve data and analysis tools to quantify impacts of trends (i.e., COVID-19, e-commerce, etc.).

Breakout Discussion



- Key discussion questions for **Freight Planning and Policy** Package:
 - Do the initiatives address Vermont's freight needs?
 - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
 - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont's highest priority?
 - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?

Breakout Group 2



- Climate Change and Resiliency Package
- Technological Innovation Package

Climate Change and Resiliency

Objectives:

- Expanding alternative fuel infrastructure for freight
- Adapting to climate change impacts

Initiatives:

12. Pursue grant opportunities to fund low- and zero-carbon fuel/propulsion technologies for all modes.
13. Plan for freight sector alternative fueling capacity/access.
14. Enhance resiliency of Vermont's freight transportation infrastructure.
15. Educate consumers about e-commerce purchasing behaviors that improve efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Breakout Discussion



- Key discussion questions for the **Climate Change and Resiliency** Package:
 - Do the initiatives address Vermont's freight needs?
 - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
 - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont's highest priority?
 - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?

Technological Innovation

Objectives:

- Expanding information and ITS deployment
- Supporting innovation in Vermont

Initiatives:

16. Support technological innovation in freight transportation and supply chain logistics.
17. Implement virtual weigh stations (VWS)/ weigh-in-motion (WIM) system.
53. Evaluate portable Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) locations statewide for potential permanent installations.
18. Develop more robust trucking information for New England 511.
19. Work regionally to harmonize regulations related to the deployment of new transportation technologies.
54. Develop and enhance the DMV online permit portal to support planning, enforcement, and safety.

Breakout Discussion



- Key discussion questions for the **Technological Innovation** Package:
 - Do the initiatives address Vermont's freight needs?
 - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
 - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont's highest priority?
 - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?

Breakout Group 3



- Trade Corridors and Economic Development Package
- Highway Operations Package

Trade Corridors and Economic Development

Objectives:

- Streamlining cross-border and inter-state trade

Initiatives:

20. Provide full domestic doublestack railcar clearances on New England Central Railroad (NECR) and Western Corridor.
21. Continue planning for Quebec Autoroute 35 completion and associated impacts.
22. Coordinate Oversized/Overweight truck permitting throughout the northeastern US.
24. Promote coordination between industry and education stakeholders to develop workforce.

Breakout Discussion



- Key discussion questions for the **Trade Corridors and Economic Development** Package:
 - Do the initiatives address Vermont's freight needs?
 - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
 - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont's highest priority?
 - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?

Highway Operations

Objectives:

- Maintaining and improving highways (safety, resilience)
- Assessing and expand truck parking capacity

Initiatives:

25. Maintain a state of good repair (SOGR).
26. Maintain or improve travel time reliability.
27. Keep highways open and safe through prompt and effective snow removal and incident management.
28. Minimize delay associated with highway projects.
31. Promote the safe movement of commercial vehicles through enforcement and leveraging technology and communications.
30. Ensure sufficient, safe truck parking is available across the state.

Breakout Discussion



- Key discussion questions for the **Highway Operations Package**:
 - Do the initiatives address Vermont's freight needs?
 - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
 - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont's highest priority?
 - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?

Breakout Group 4



- Rail Development Package
- Air Freight Package

Rail Development

Objectives:

- Maintaining and upgrading rail infrastructure
- Educating shippers and the public about freight rail

Initiatives:

32. Upgrade all State-owned freight rail lines to be able to efficiently carry the industry-standard railcar weight of 286,000 lbs. (286k).
33. Maintain trackage at Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Track Class 2 or better.
34. Preserve and fully use industrial land parcels with access to rail sidings.
38. Participate in multistate rail planning and programming to improve regional rail network.
41. Maintain and modernize freight rail yards.

Breakout Discussion



- Key discussion questions for the **Rail Development Package**:
 - Do the initiatives address Vermont's freight needs?
 - Are there other initiatives VTrans should consider?
 - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont's highest priority?
 - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?

Air Freight

Objectives:

- Maintaining infrastructure
- Monitoring ongoing studies and plans

Initiatives:

42. Maintain airport runway surfaces, approaches, and instrumentation in state of good repair.
43. Improve instrumentation if/when opportunities to expand air traffic and cargo arise.
44. Monitor runway safety issues and implement action plans as needed.
45. Monitor obstructions to airport approaches and implement action plans as needed.
46. Develop a weather observation station equipment improvement plan for State airports.

Breakout Discussion



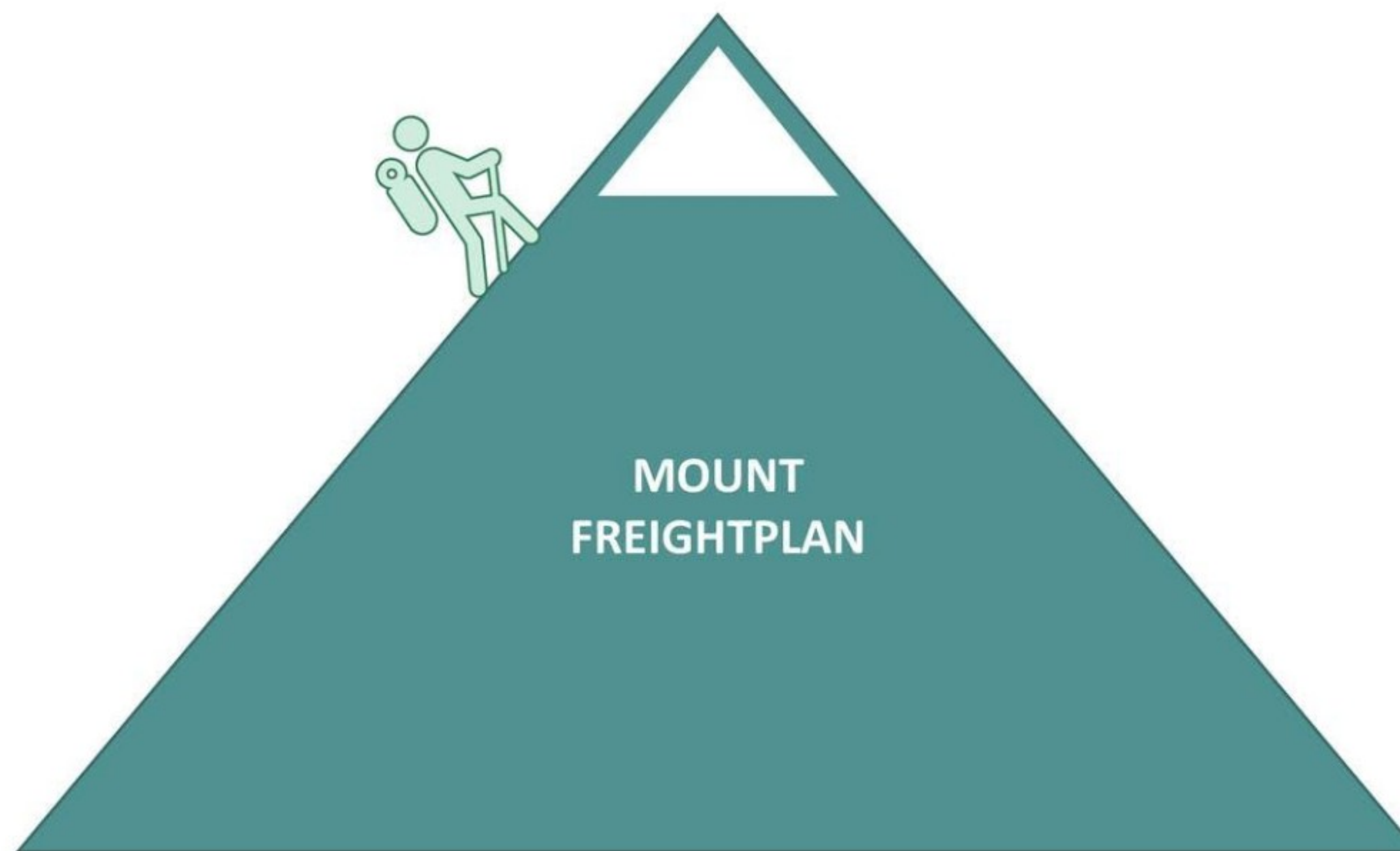
- Key discussion questions for the **Air Freight** Package:
 - Do the initiatives address Vermont's freight needs?
 - Are there other initiatives VTrans should consider?
 - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont's highest priority?
 - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?

Report-Out



- Each Group's facilitator will briefly report the group's conclusions
 - Do the initiatives address Vermont's freight needs?
 - Are there other initiatives VTrans should consider?
 - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont's highest priority?
 - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?

Next Steps

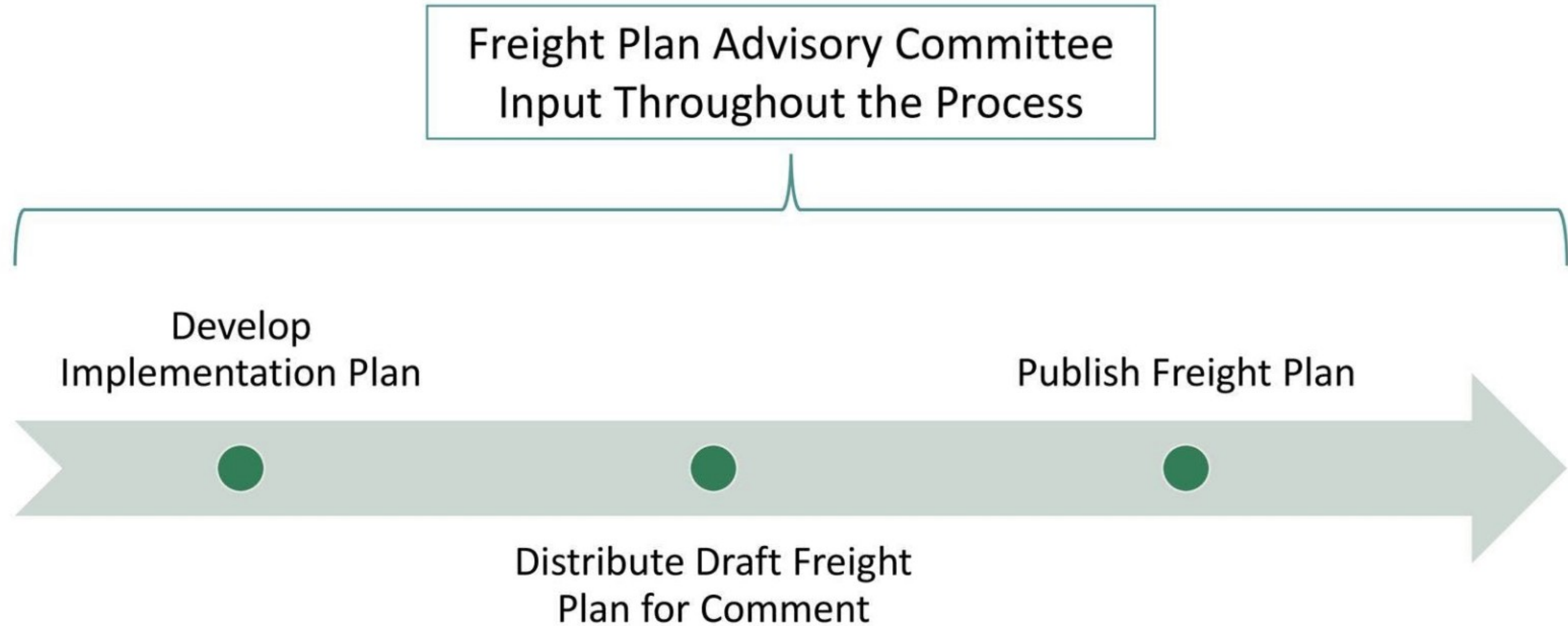


Implementation Plan



- Guidance for implementing Freight Plan initiatives
 - Lead agencies/actors and roles
 - Timeframes (short/medium/long)
 - Investment Plan for National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) funds

Next Steps



Additional Information on Web Page



- Newsletters
- Data Trends Summaries
- Technical memoranda
- Meeting presentations
- Online map with information and feedback tool

Freight Plan Web Page:

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight>

Thank You

For more information on the Vermont Freight Plan Update, visit vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight or contact Dave Pelletier at Dave.Pelletier@vermont.gov or (802) 595-9675.

For more information on the Vermont Rail Plan Update, visit vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports or contact Zoe Neaderland at Zoe.Neaderland@vermont.gov or (802) 793-2778.